

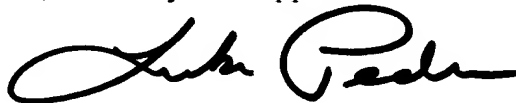
REMARKS

Prior to a first examination of this continuation application, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment and a review of Claims 21-42, all the Claims now in the Application.

Applicants submit the filing fee of \$906.00. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully Submitted,

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**MARKED UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made. The specification and claims have been amended as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the application at Page 1, line 1 by inserting the following:

**--RELATED APPLICATION**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/224,218 filed December 30, 1998 entitled *Ammunition Shipping and Storage Container and Method*, now U.S. Patent \_\_\_\_\_ (Attorney's Docket 004578.0759).

This application is filed concurrently with commonly owned patent application entitled *Ammunition Shipping and Storage Container and Method* (Attorney's Docket 004578.1133).--

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the following new claims are added:

21. (New) A container, comprising:  
a storage vessel having an interior compartment;  
a stacking lug coupled with the storage vessel; and  
at least one handle disposed within a generally quarter cylindrical opening adjacent an edge of the stacking lug.

22. (New) A container, comprising:  
a storage vessel having an interior compartment;  
a stacking lug coupled with the storage vessel; and

an exterior surface of the stacking lug including at least one tie extending from an exterior surface to an interior surface of the stacking lug.

23. (New) A container, comprising:

a storage vessel;

a stacking lug coupled with the storage vessel; and

a lighting rod disposed at least partially within the stacking lug.

24. (New) A container, comprising:

a storage vessel with an interior compartment, and an access opening at one end;

a removable end cap releasably and mechanically coupled to the storage vessel and operable to close the access opening;

a first flange extending from an outer surface of the storage vessel, the first flange being sized to cooperate a corresponding second flange extending from an exterior surface of the end cap; and

a generally rectangular first stacking lug having a generally cylindrical, tubular interior diameter operable to receive the storage vessel therein.

25. (New) The container of Claim 24, further comprising a first backing ring having an opening configured to receive the storage vessel therethrough, the backing ring contacting a side of the first flange opposite the access opening and being operable to provide support to the first flange.

26. (New) The container of Claim 24, further comprising a first backing ring having an opening configured to receive the end cap therethrough, the first backing ring contacting a side of the second flange opposite the storage vessel and being operable to provide support to the first flange.

27. (New) The container of Claim 25, further comprising a second backing ring having an opening configured to receive the end cap therethrough, the second backing ring contacting a side of the second flange opposite the storage vessel and being operable to provide support to the first flange.

28. (New) The container of Claim 24, wherein the storage vessel is formed from extruded, high-density polyethylene.

29. (New) The container of Claim 24, wherein the stacking lug is formed from rotationally molded, cross-linked, high density polyethylene.

30. (New) The container of Claim 24, further comprising a manual pressure relief valve operable to create a path of fluid communication between the interior compartment and ambient environment.

31. (New) The container of Claim 24, wherein the first stacking lug comprises:

- a housing with an opening disposed therethrough, the housing having a first face and a second face opposite the first face; and
- a first protrusion on the first face of the housing.

32. (New) The container of Claim 31, further comprising a cavity on the second face adapted to receive a second protrusion of similar size and configuration as the first protrusion, to form a releasable nested fit between the second protrusion and the cavity.

33. (New) The container of Claim 31, wherein the first face is adapted to cooperate with a third face of a separate component of similar size and configuration as the container, such that force from the weight of the separate component is transferred from the third face to the first face when the component is stacked upon the container.

34. (New) The container of Claim 24, wherein the storage vessel and removable end cap are operable to form a pressure vessel.

35. (New) The container of Claim 24, wherein the interior compartment is adapted to receive a round of ammunition therein.

36. (New) The container of Claim 24, wherein the mechanical fastener includes a lever clamp assembly.

37. (New) The container of Claim 24 wherein the stacking lug is permanently affixed to the storage vessel.

38. (New) An apparatus, comprising:  
an elongate, generally cylindrical storage vessel having an access opening at a first end and generally sealed at a second end;  
first and second stacking lugs disposed upon an outer diameter of the storage vessel, each stacking lug including a generally rectangular housing having a cylindrical opening operable to receive the storage vessel;  
at least a first protrusion extending from a first face of each stacking lug;  
a second face of each stacking lug opposite the first face, having a cavity sized to cooperate with a member of a similar size and configuration as the first protrusion, such that additional stacking lugs may

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be disposed upon the first or second stacking lugs in a nested configuration;

a first flange extending from the outer diameter, the first flange having a corresponding backing ring supporting the flange at a face of the flange opposite the access opening; and

a removable end cap releasably and mechanically coupled to the storage vessel and operable to close the access opening.

39. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, further comprising:

a second protrusion extending from the first face of each stacking lug, in a spaced relation from the first protrusion; and

the first and second protrusions configured to receive a shipping strap therebetween.

40. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, further comprising a humidity indicator in fluid communication with an interior portion of the storage vessel and visible from an exterior portion of the storage vessel.

41. (New) The apparatus of Claim 38, further comprising:

a flange assembly coupled with the storage vessel at the first end of the storage vessel, the flange assembly including a tubular, generally cylindrical body sharing a central axis with the storage vessel;

a circular flange extending from an outer diameter of the flange assembly and sharing the central axis with the flange assembly, the circular flange having an exterior diameter greater than an interior diameter of the removable end cap; and

the circular flange operable to prevent lateral motion of the removable end cap towards the storage vessel, beyond a first installed position.

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42. (New) The apparatus of Claim 41, further comprising:  
the circular flange having first and second sides; and  
a cylindrical backing ring disposed upon the outer diameter of the  
flange assembly and contacting the circular flange.

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